

CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE WHEAT PRODUCERS
LIMITED
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Souvenir

ON to OTTAWA



WESTERN FARM
DELEGATION

MARCH 10

1959

PETITION

District No., Sub-District No.

To the Prime Minister,
and Members of the Government,
OTTAWA.

WHEREAS the cost index of commodities and services used by Western farmers has risen by 51 percent in the past ten years; and

WHEREAS during the ten-year period grain prices have declined to the extent that the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat, oats and barley is at the lowest point it has reached since the depression of the late thirties, (for example, in the ten-year period wheat prices have declined 21 percent); and

WHEREAS the imbalance between costs and prices, usually referred to as the cost-price squeeze, has brought about the most serious economic conditions faced by Western grain farmers since the depression prevailing at the outbreak of World War II;

We, the undersigned, hereby petition the Government of Canada to take immediate action to meet the emergency arising from the cost-price squeeze by providing deficiency payments on wheat, oats and barley delivered to The Canadian Wheat Board during the crop years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58, such deficiency payments to be made on a specific volume of each farmer's deliveries to maintain the income of the family farm at a parity level.

Name	Address	Occupation	Amount Contributed	
Art Dunn	Comins	Farmer	\$	c
McNamee	Carleton	Farmer	on	as
Johnson	Arvink	Farmer	as	as
Johnson	Arvink	Farmer	as	as
Johnson	Arvink	Farmer	as	as
Ramont	Harvink	Farmer	as	as

DEDICATION

THIS STORY OF THE
WESTERN FARM DELEGATION
IS DEDICATED
TO THE THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN
IN WESTERN CANADA WHO WORKED SO HARD
AND IN SO MANY WAYS
TO ASSURE THE SUCCESS OF
THE DELEGATION TO OTTAWA
ON MARCH 10, 1959.

FROM farms and towns and cities across Western Canada, they came to present their case to the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada. These were the chosen delegates of more than 303,000 prairie people who had signed a petition urging the adoption of national policies to rescue Canada's important grain growing industry from impending economic collapse.

They met the Government in Ottawa on March 10—more than a thousand strong. They laid their case before the Queen's responsible ministers with force and dignity. They met the members of the House of Commons and of the Senate. They explained their problems temperately but with the directness and vigor that comes from conviction. There were no fireworks, no angry protests just the persistent argument that western grain producers must have help and that the best way to offer this help was through a system of deficiency payments on wheat, oats and barley covering the years in which the prices of these grains were disastrously out of line with farm costs.

The delegates heard the Prime Minister promise careful consideration of the policies which had been laid before him. They heard his assurance that the problems of the grain producers would not be neglected. The delegates accepted these statements by the Prime Minister as a solemn covenant.

The Western Farm Delegation which arrived in Ottawa on Monday morning, March 9, 1959, was representative of almost every economic and social group in the three Prairie Provinces. The majority of them were farmers. But there were also business and professional men, housewives, and representatives of labor organizations. They were elected by special local committees made up of people who had been active in circulating the petition for deficiency payments. They were drawn from all parts of the three Prairie Provinces and one came from the Peace River Block of British Columbia.

The expenses of the delegation were borne by the voluntary contributions from the 303,000 persons who had signed the petition. The average donation was about 70 cents. No one gave very much and nearly everyone gave something as a token of sincerity in supporting the petition for deficiency payments.

Looked at from any angle, the Western Farm Delegation showed an amazing solidarity of opinion in the West. The enthusiasm for the delegation was strong from the moment the decision was made by farm organizations to go ahead with the demonstration. The support came not only from grain producers but from farmers whose chief interest was in other farm production. Business, professional and labor groups showed through their support their appreciation of the farm problem and their recognition of how it affected them.

This was, in every respect, a grass roots movement sparked by the enthusiasm of the people in the country and gaining momentum as it rolled along. The West had seen nothing like it for many years.



Throughout the coldest months of the winter they bucked snow-blocked roads to organize the canvass. Groups like this met in community halls, in stores and offices across the prairies to volunteer their time and energy. It became a community project and women, too, played their role.

THE heart of the drive for deficiency payments was in the country. Hundreds of community meetings all across the prairie generated the enthusiasm which carried the canvass to a successful conclusion. But, long before there was any decision to organize the delegation, country meetings were demanding policies which would take the squeeze out of the cost-price situation in which agriculture found itself.

The grave situation in agriculture began to develop after 1954. At the end of the Second World War, when price controls were removed, the cost of goods and services required by agriculture began to climb along with all other costs in Canada. Up to 1954, the price of wheat and other grains shared to some extent the generally buoyant price levels. That is, the rise in costs was partly offset by better prices for western grains.

After 1954, however, the price of grains began to go down. Meanwhile costs continued high for

a year or two and then, in 1955 and 1956 began to rise rapidly as the Canadian economy headed into a new wave of expansion. The result spelled trouble for the grain producer. As his costs went up, prices for his output went down and he was caught in a squeeze which increasingly threatened his economic existence. It was in this situation that small groups of farmers throughout the country began to demand policies which would rescue the grain industry from the threat confronting it.

A solution to the problem was put forward in the spring of 1956 at a meeting of the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture. It was this: That the federal government should provide deficiency payments on western grains to make up at least a part of the difference between the rising costs of goods and services and the falling prices of wheat and other grains. This principle was widely discussed in all farm meetings during the succeeding months. Gradually the idea for deficiency payments gained strength as the farm crisis deepened.



First Mass Meeting: Mayor S. L. Buckwold of Saskatoon introduces Saskatchewan Wheat Pool president J. H. Wesson and Saskatchewan Farmers' Union president Alf Gleave to an overflow audience attending the first mass meeting in the On-to-Ottawa campaign.

THE idea of organizing a large delegation to go to Ottawa to press for deficiency payments began to circulate late in 1956. It was talked about at a number of farm meetings but always put aside to await the outcome of smaller farm delegations which brought the farm problem to the attention of the Government.

In the fall of 1958, however, the crisis was becoming so serious and the results of other representations had proved so inadequate, that large numbers of farmers decided the time had come for a dramatic approach. In early November, delegates to the 34th annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool unanimously approved a resolution calling for the organization of a large delegation to Ottawa in co-operation with the other provincial Wheat Pools and the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union.

In December, the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union annual meeting also went on record calling for a

large delegation. The Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture lent its support to the plan. By mid-December, meetings among representatives of the three organizations had drafted the blueprints for a province-wide canvass for signatures to a petition asking for deficiency payments and for contributions to a voluntary fund to send a large delegation to present the petition to the Government.

The decision was made to initiate the Saskatchewan campaign at a huge public rally in Saskatoon on January 9. The presidents of the Farmers' Union and the Wheat Pool were to start the ball rolling. Seven other large regional meetings were scheduled during the next few days. Special radio and television programs were arranged along with a major advertising campaign in local weekly and daily newspapers. Local committees began to organize meetings in their own areas.

The show was on the road.

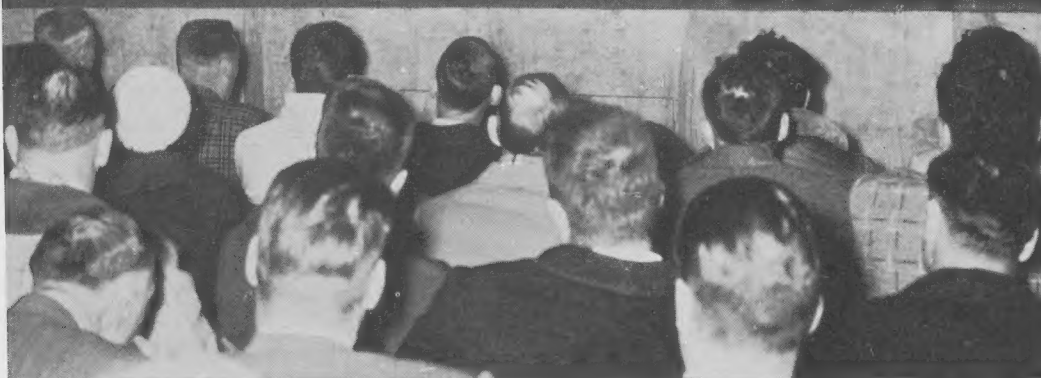


A. J. Hansen, 76, and J. A. Black, 75, of Foam Lake, two oldtimers in the farm movement are ready to set out on a day's canvassing.

A. P. Gleave, president, Saskatchewan Farmers' Union addresses a regional meeting in the deficiency payments campaign.



Mayor Roy Dean of North Battleford signs the petition. His father was a member of the 1942 delegation.





The liaison committee of the western farm delegation was made up of representatives of all the sponsoring organizations. At one meeting, those shown above represented the farm organizations. They are, from left to right, Front Row: Gordon Harrold, president, Alberta Wheat Pool; Rudy Usick, president, Manitoba Farmers' Union; J. H. Wesson, CBE, leader of the delegation and president, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool; A. P. Gleave, committee chairman, president, Saskatchewan Farmers' Union; A. R. Stevens, committee secretary, secretary, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool; Ed Nelson, president, Farmers' Union of Alberta; C. C. Hunt, director, Manitoba Wheat Pool. Back Row: W. F. McLeod, Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture; D. J. Meadows, secretary, Manitoba Federation of Agriculture; James Bentley, president, Alberta Federation of Agriculture; D. L. Trapp, director, United Grain Growers; W. J. Blair, vice-president, Alberta Wheat Pool; Olaf Turnbull, vice-president, Saskatchewan Farmers' Union; C. W. Gibbings, second vice-president, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Representatives serving on the liaison committee at other times were as follows: Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture—T. G. Bobier, president; Manitoba Federation of Agriculture—D. A. McNabb; Alberta Federation of Agriculture—Nelson Malm; United Grain Growers—S. S. Sears.

When the western farm delegation arrived in Ottawa, the liaison committee was enlarged by two representatives from each province elected by the delegates themselves. This enlarged committee became known as the steering committee and was responsible for arrangements and speakers when the delegation met the Government of Canada.

Those elected by the delegates to the Steering Committee were:

Manitoba: P. E. Burnell, Manitoba Federation of Agriculture; H. Andreason, Manitoba Farmers' Union;

Saskatchewan: L. M. Larson, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool; C. J. Strayer, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool;

Alberta: U. Powell, Farmers' Union of Alberta; Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite, Farmers' Union of Alberta.

That Saskatoon meeting set the pattern of what was to follow in all the provinces. Long before the meeting was scheduled to get under way, the Banquet Room of The Bessborough was filled. Overflow crowds stretched back through the main lobby of the hotel until it was estimated that nearly 1,900 persons were there to hear the speeches and help launch the campaign for the Ottawa delegation. Still more came and were turned away.

But even before the Saskatoon meeting had taken place there was ample evidence that the farm people were disturbed about their economic future and that their anxiety was shared by many others. Many local committees began their canvass even before the official opening date of January 9. The response which they received was an indication of what was to come.

During the period in which the organization was being set up, new strength for the delegation began to be evident in the provinces of Manitoba and Alberta. Wheat Pool and farm union annual meetings went on record in favor of the principle of deficiency payments. They agreed to participate in circulating a petition and in sending delegates to Ottawa to assist in its presentation.

By early January, the ten major farm organizations in Western Canada had indicated their will-

ingness to support the delegation and to solicit signatures for the petition. They were:

Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
Saskatchewan Farmers' Union
Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture
Farmers' Union of Alberta
Alberta Wheat Pool
Alberta Federation of Agriculture
Manitoba Federation of Agriculture
Manitoba Farmers' Union
Manitoba Pool Elevators
United Grain Growers Ltd.

The Interprovincial Farm Union Council and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture endorsed deficiency payments and lent support to the campaign in many ways.

This sort of solidly united action was unprecedented in Western farm organization. It was a common response to a common problem. It guaranteed the ultimate success of the campaign for signatures.

With this large number of organizations in complete support of a single policy, it became necessary to establish an interprovincial committee to look after the details. This was found in the establishment of the Liaison Committee with representatives from each of the farm organizations.



THEY SPOKE:

T. G. Bobier, president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture, addresses one of the many mass meetings held across the prairies.

THEY LISTENED:

Capacity crowds filled halls across the prairies to gain a better understanding of purposes of the delegation.



THEY WORKED:

This canvasser travelled a 30-mile circuit on horseback to circulate the petition. He was one of 35,000 volunteers.



NEWSREELS:



TELEVISION:



MOVIES:

The campaign, the trip and the meeting with the Government were permanently recorded.

ALBERTA

Agriculture in Alberta is more widely diversified and the grain producing area is smaller both in total and in relationship to the provincial economy than that of neighboring Saskatchewan. For these reasons, the impact of the cost-price squeeze which was just as marked for the individual was not felt as quickly by the economy as a whole. However, by the fall of 1958 the problem was fully apparent and at the annual meetings of farm organizations the demand for action was unanimous.

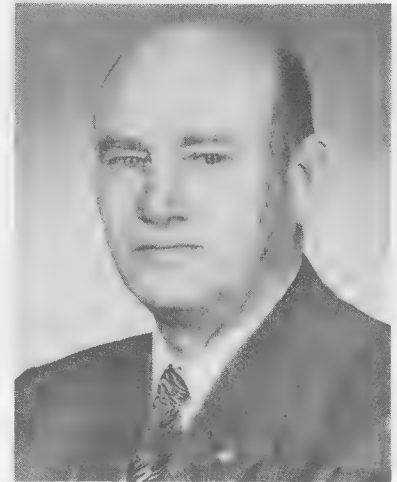
Plans to support a delegation were endorsed at the annual meetings of the Farmers' Union of Alberta and the Alberta Wheat Pool. The Alberta Federation of Agriculture and United Grain Growers' with a host of other provincial and local organizations supported the plan and early in January details of the campaign and canvass were determined.

The campaign itself was launched in mid-January. Some 500 volunteer canvassers began a sweep of the province which extended to the Peace River country in British Columbia.

Mass meetings were called in each of the 14 Districts. The Farmers' Union and Wheat Pool arranged local committees and details of the canvass on a local basis. Parts of the farming area of Alberta are particularly inaccessible in winter and for that reason canvassing presented real difficulties. With the return of the first petitions, however, it was evident that the people of Alberta were aroused and strongly endorsed the campaign.

When the deadline for canvassing was reached, Alberta petitions bore the signatures of more than 31,000 persons and delegates for the March on Ottawa were chosen.

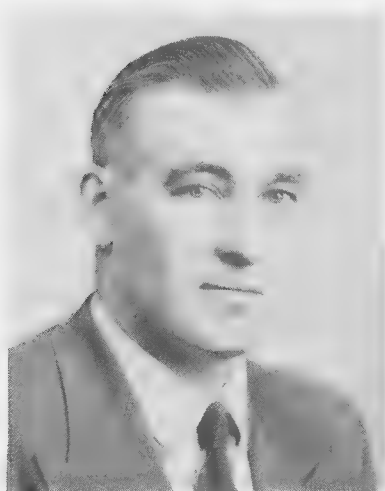
On the evening of March 6, the first cars of the four special trains were assembled in Edmonton and Calgary and 191 delegates and representatives of agricultural organizations began the "March."



ED NELSON



J. E. BROWNLEE



GORDON HARROLD



JAMES BENTLEY

SASKATCHEWAN



A. P. GLEAVE



J. H. WESSON



T. G. BOBIER

Saskatchewan was the first province to get organized for the petition. After the Farm Union, the Federation and the Wheat Pool met early in December to work out the details of the canvass and to decide upon the form of the petition, everything was speeded up to get the canvassers in the field as early as possible.

Petition forms went out to canvassers about Christmas time, and the committees in the country got organized, divided up their territory and assigned teams of volunteers to do the job. One of the key people in this undertaking was the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator agent. Agents throughout the province were given the task of accounting for the petitions distributed in their community, recording them as they were returned and keeping track of the donations made to the Ottawa Delegation Fund. Weekly reports to head office kept the committees in charge always up-to-date on the progress of the campaign.

Canvassing committees were set up at each shipping point with members of the Wheat Pool committees, Farmers' Union lodges forming the nucleus of the working group. Early in the campaign it became evident that the business and professional people in small centres throughout the province were just as keenly interested in the solution of the problems arising from the cost-price squeeze as the farmers themselves. They took an active part in planning the local work and many of them acted as canvassers. This was one of the great strengths of the campaign throughout the West. It was, in fact, a genuine community effort.

The canvass was carried out under very great difficulties. The winter proved to be a difficult one. There were many blizzards and temperatures were generally lower than even Saskatchewan expects during January and February. Many canvassers showed monumental determination in covering the parts of districts assigned to them.

A careful estimate of the number of active campaign workers in Saskatchewan indicates that about 15,000 persons helped with the canvass. They covered thousands of miles of snow-choked roads, attending meetings at distant points, and putting countless hours into the job of making the campaign for signatures a tremendous success.

And it was a great success. When the final tabulations were made, more than 218,000 Saskatchewan people had signed the petition and had contributed more than \$149,000 toward the expenses of the delegation. This was an average of just under 70 cents for each signature on the petition. As the special trains pulled out of Saskatchewan, 632 delegates were aboard to add their strength to the demonstration of western solidarity.

MANITOBA

January 16, marked the start of an all-out campaign in Manitoba. A meeting of agricultural leaders in the province was called on that day and resulted in a detailed plan of procedure for Ottawa Delegation Committees. For purposes of the campaign and the canvass, the province was divided into 10 Districts, following the boundaries of federal constituencies.

With time running out, the campaign had to be conducted with speed and precision. A co-ordinating committee consisting of Rudy Usick and Herb Andresen of the Manitoba Farmers' Union; C. C. Hunt and H. B. Sneath of Manitoba Pool Elevators; Donald McNabb and George Higgs of the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and John Comeau and Donald Fraser of United Grain Growers' was formed and within five days, on January 21, a meeting was held in each Manitoba constituency. Meetings in each of 50 sub-districts followed in rapid succession and by February 6, 300 local committees had been organized.

Canvassers worked throughout the province against time and winter—the deadline for completion of the canvass was less than 10 days off when a meeting of committee chairmen was called in Portage La Prairie. Final plans for the wind-up of the canvass and for election of the delegates were made at this meeting. Again the pace was stepped up as canvassers covered pockets in the province which had previously been missed. Meetings were taking place at a rate of more than 10 a day and during the course of the campaign more than 350 were held in the province.

A special canvass was organized in metropolitan Winnipeg. This campaign was organized on February 19 at a meeting of representatives of labor, business and other groups. The work done by this committee assisted by many volunteers resulted in obtaining 2,000 signatures and donations amounting to about \$1,000.

The first completed petitions were returned by February 11 and with time the chief factor, these early results lent impetus to the drive. By February 27, the campaign was complete. Results of the final tabulation showed a total of nearly 54,000 signatures to the petitions and contributions in excess of \$37,000 toward sending the delegation to Ottawa.

On March 7, 204 Manitoba delegates boarded the special trains bound for Ottawa.

Before the delegates left for Ottawa, they met in Winnipeg to hear speeches by the leaders and to plan for the trip and the presentation. A feature of this meeting was an address by Archbishop Baudoux of St. Boniface who had participated in the 1942 farm delegation.



RUDY USICK



W. J. PARKER



S. E. RANSOM

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

MANITOBA

Signatures	53,842
Donations	\$ 37,022.69
Delegates	204

SASKATCHEWAN

Signatures	218,276
Donations	\$149,600.98
Delegates	632

ALBERTA

Signatures	31,035
Donations	\$ 41,812.87
Delegates	191

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Signatures	303,153
Donations	\$228,436.54
Delegates	1,027

Members of the Western Farm Delegation and staff quickly settled into their hotels after the trains arrived in Ottawa on March 9. In fact, one of the remarkable things about the movement of so many people was the smoothness with which the arrangements were carried out at every stage of the proceedings.

The well-ordered movement of the delegation was emphasized in the attitude of the delegates themselves. They had arrived in Ottawa on a serious mission as the responsible representatives of their neighbors back home. They conducted themselves with dignity and poise. This restraint made a deep impression on the people of Ottawa and upon the members of the government. It was made clear in every statement and action of the delegation that here was a group of people who were speaking to other Canadians out of a deep conviction that they had a just and legitimate case to present.

The delegates met the Government on Tuesday. All the members of the Cabinet who were available attended to hear the presentations. Many members from the House of Commons and the Senate were also there. Many of the delegates were unable to gain admittance to the main meeting room and were forced to listen to the proceedings over loud speakers set up in adjoining rooms.

The presentations by those selected to make special statements were impressive. The main brief was presented by the delegation leader, Mr. J. H. Wesson who had also been the leader of the 1942 delegation. The Prime Minister spoke to the delegation outlining some of the government's future plans for agriculture and promising sympathetic consideration of the case which had been presented. Mr. Wesson brought cheers from the delegates when he wondered if farmers could wait for relief until the government's long-range program bore fruit.

The following day small groups of delegates met with groups of members of all parties to answer questions and to underscore the problems of the western grain producer. These meetings were conducted in a friendly atmosphere, but the delegates left no doubt about the gravity of the situation or their sincerity in asking for deficiency payments.

The approach by the members of the Western Farm Delegation to the Government was impressive throughout. The display of solidarity among western farm people, their strong stand on the need for deficiency payments carried conviction to all who came in contact with them.



THEY
WORSHIPPED
AND
BROKE BREAD
TOGETHER

Rev. Fr. S. Slezak
celebrates Sunday Mass
on board C.P.R. No. 2



Rev. J. C. McDonald holds
interdenominational services



Delegates eat
together in
the diner.



A TIME FOR
SLEEP
AND A TIME
FOR
SINGING





The Prime Minister greets the illegation leader.



Delegates and petitions await the Prime Minister.



⌞ ... BUSINESS PARTNERS
OF THEIR FARMER HUSBANDS

Mrs. Beatrice Trew spoke on behalf of women elected to take part in the "March."

Mrs. Trew's son John of Beechy was also a delegate on the trip east.

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED
SECURITY

Alex McCalla, a young farmer from Bromner, Alta., said farming must offer benefits comparable to other portions of the economy. He cited the migration of rural youth to other business and professional fields.



VOIC OF T PRAI



⌞ ... NOT A HAPPY PICTURE
FOR THE GRAIN PRODUCER

A vocational agricultural teacher from Kindersley, J. W. Clarke pointed out that only exceptional yields over the last few years enabled even a percentage of farmers on average size units to meet production costs.

... DIVERSIFICATION HAS
ALREADY CAUSED
MANY PROBLEMS

From Erickson, Man., Rudy Usick, farmer and president of the Manitoba Farmers' Union, spoke on effects of low returns from grain on the livestock industry . . . "Unless action is forthcoming soon to increase grain prices, livestock surpluses will increase with correspondingly lower prices."



A joint statement by Rev. B. McLellan Walliser of Dilke on behalf of clergy in the number of families forced to leave the ment creeping over people who were still

CES THE RIES

FARMER AND SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERS

Martin Arndt, merchant, of Spring-
side, Sask., told of the dependence of
small business on agriculture. Defi-
ciency payments, he said, are long
overdue. Mr. Arndt cited the plight
of one Saskatchewan industry which
saw 25% of its outlets go broke.



MACHINERY SHARE OF FARM CAPITAL INCREASING

C. W. Gibbings, Rosetown farm-
er and vice-president of the Sask-
atchewan Wheat Pool, explained
farm attitude to subsidies and the
interdependence of agriculture and in-
dustry. Deficiency payments do not
interfere with marketings or prices.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HANDICAPPED

C. H. Whiting, farmer and mun-
icipal councillor of Pleasant Valley,
Sask.

Municipal services have suffered
because farmers are unable to meet
the tax burden.

... Tax arrears were no problem
when grain income bore a fair re-
lationship to costs of grain produc-
tion.



LABOR ADDS ITS SUPPORT

"... Labor gives its full support to
the farmers of Western Canada in
their effort to win a standard of
living commensurate with their con-
tributions to the economy."



Ellan of Prince Albert and Fr. Geo.
in the delegation, expressed alarm at
the farm and the feeling of discourag-
ement left on the farm.



THE PRIME MINISTER . . . AND THE PETITIONS



COMING HOME

THERE'S
TIME
TO
RELAX



MANITOBA DELEGATES

CHURCHILL

Sub. 1—

Gordon Ferriss, Bowsman
Eggy Sigurdson, Big Woody
Geo. McCullough, Kenville
A. Brust, Swan River
Hill Ferriss, Bowsman
Walter Rutka, Pine River
Roy Hamilton, Kenville
Steve Einarson, Minitonas
Sandy Scorgie, Birch River
Doug Corbett, Benito
Tony Baschak, Pine River
Mat Milroy, Durban
H. Bradley, Lenswood
Pete Shewchuk, Birch River

DAUPHIN

Sub. 1—

Julius Otke, Roblin
Allen Martin, Roblin
Norman Kosinsky, Zelena P.O.
J. Wardle, Dropmore

Sub. 2—

John Perchaluk, Shortdale
F. Bailes, Bield

Sub. 3—

Earl Myer, Grandview
Berard Nelson, Grandview
Donald Ross, Grandview
Oliver Bradley, Grandview

Sub. 4—

Alex Stoughton, Gilbert Plains
Harvey Yuill, Gilbert Plains
Wally Bohonos, Gilbert Plains
Doug Jubenville, Gilbert Plains

Sub. 5—

Louis Hill, Dauphin
John Seale, Dauphin
Cecil R. Durston, Dauphin
John Potoski, Dauphin

Sub. 6—

Lloyd Blair, Ochre River

Sub. 7—

Paul Maguet, Kergwenan

Sub. 8—

J. Zaplitny, Oak Brae

Sub. 9—

Peter Burtiak, Fork River
Emmitt McLean, Fork River

Sub. 10—

Edward Dzisiak, Ethelbert
Peter Budolowski, Ethelbert
Mike Dohan, Ethelbert

MARQUETTE

Sub. 1—

M. J. Sotos, Glen Elmo
Bert Mitchell, Rossburn
M. Baubie, Rossburn
M. Gawryluk, Rossburn
Paul Koss, Inglis
W. M. Cochrane, Silverton
Chas. McFarlane, Silverton
Nick Derkatch, Russell
Gordon Bryer, Binscarth
John Katchin, Angusville
Gordon Ferguson, Angusville

Sub. 2—

E. V. Fulton, Birtle
Harvey Wallace, Crandall
J. J. Morton, Miniota
D. A. Falloon, Foxwarren
John Cooper, Foxwarren

Sub. 3—

Gordon Hunter, Kenton
C. H. Hedison, McAuley
Ralph Rowan, Elkhorn

Sub. 4—

Wm. J. Shwaluk, Oakburn
Mrs. Gladis Fleming, Oakner
Mike Antonation, Shoal Lake
M. H. Shindruk, Elphinstone
Percy Burnell, Strathclair
Wm. Longstaffe, Cardale
John Nowosad, Oakburn
A. E. Andrew, Hamiota
Kenneth Rapley, Strathclair
John Ewasiuk, Horod

Sub. 5—

Alvin Hart, Mentmore
J. Kingdon, Basswood
F. Charles, Minnedosa
H. G. Wells, Rapid City
D. Calen, Minnedosa
J. Box, Minnedosa
G. L. Ross, Minnedosa

Sub. 6—

Rudolph Usick, Erickson
John Lee, Erickson
Sherman Dayton, Newdale
Howard Burgess, Minnedosa
M. J. Wolotsky, Mountain Road
Mrs. Peter Coulson, Sandy Lake
Olav Shellborn, Erickson
Don Koroscil, Sandy Lake

BRANDON-SOURIS

Sub. 1—

Donald Simpson, Melita
Andy Melvin, Pierson
Hugh Wallace, Waskada
Tom Hainsworth, Deloraine
Lloyd Baldur, Deloraine

Sub. 2—

S. J. Tripp, Killarney
E. Dalglish, Margaret
Eric Lovett, Killarney
Leonard Sadler, Elgin
G. Pettinger, Margaret

Sub. 3—

John L. Canart, Elkhorn
John Williamson, Sinclair
J. A. Agnew, Hartney
H. W. Olive, Oak Lake
G. E. Horn, Woodnorth

Sub. 4—

Willard McFarland, Carroll
Roy Minary, Nesbitt

PORTAGE-NEEPAWA

Sub. 1—

Geo. Carr, Kelwood
Bill Sawiuk, McCreary
Carman Poole, Kelwood
Jack Whyte, Norgate

Sub. 2—

Fred Cook, Neepawa
Herbert Hockin, Neepawa
Mel Batters, Neepawa
Irwin Pierson, Eden

Sub. 3—

Herb McIntosh, Harte Station

Sub. 4—

N. D. McCaskill, Gladstone
Sam McCurry, Plumas
Archie Johnson, Langruth

Sub. 5—

R. McLaughlin, Beaver
Chas. Hotel, Austin

Sub. 6—

Wm. Beam, Portage
Mrs. Anne Werbiski, Portage
Gus Biberdorf, Edwin

Sub. 7—

C. H. Tufford, Portage

Sub. 8—

Mrs. Anne Futros, Headingly
Mrs. Tom Tully, Marquette

LISGAR

Sub. 1—

Ed Hemminger, Morden
A. F. Henderson, Morden
Pete Fehr, Altona
George Elias, Haskett

Sub. 2—

E. H. Sloan, Clearwater
T. J. Wallcroft, La Riviere
C. D. McLean, Manitou
J. S. L. McKinnon, Wood Bay
Wm. R. Brown, Snowflake
J. H. Hildebrand, Crystal City

Sub. 3—

Geo. Vincent, Mather
W. E. Clark, Baldur
John Lockerby, Neelin
F. H. Bridges, Cartwright

Sub. 4—

Pierre Mabon, Notre Dame
Mrs. A. B. Foster, Somerset
Wilfred Darling, Treherne
Owen Anderson, Cypress River
Emile Van Deynze, Somerset

Sub. 5 and 6—

John Daily, Miami
Herb Andresen, Myrtle
John W. Giesbrecht, Myrtle

PROVENCHER

Sub. 1—

A. A. Wiens, Lowe Farm
W. C. Peckover, Sperling
J. R. Clubb, Morris
W. Pitura, Brunkild

Sub. 2—

Ray Siemens, Altona
Glen Calder, Letellier
Ed Mazinkie, Rosenfeld
A. J. Beaudette, St. Jean

Sub. 3—

Lucien Bouchard, Dominion City
Victor Crook, Dominion City

Sub. 4—

A. Desharnais, St. Pierre
John Toews, Niverville
Pete Penner, New Bothwell
Ed Grienke, Steinbach

SPRINGFIELD

Sub. 1—

Joe Lozinski, Hadashville
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Congress, Regina

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B. P. Saunders, Milden

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Frank Britnell, Outlook
A. Roseth, Macrorie

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C. Reed, Elrose
W. Marjerrison, Chipperfield

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Henry Weigers, Muenster
Eric Gibney, Guernsey

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Albert Thoen, Viscount
F. Teneycke, Young
Peter Guskoski, Viscount
Alf Simpson, Young

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L. Evans, Dundurn
L. Turriff, Allan

Sub. 4—

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Joe Hoffman, Saskatoon
Fred Hodge, Elstow
John Ulrich, Clavet
L. V. Mitchell, Blucher

Sub. 5—

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A. N. Anderson, Saskatoon
G. G. Guenther, Osler

Sub. 6—

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Geo. Brown, Ceepee
John Fedosa, Ceepee
Verne Shockey, Vanscoy

Sub. 7—

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D. Hutchinson, Kinley
W. W. Brown, Leney
F. Young, Kinley
A. E. Foreman, Sonningdale

Sub. 8—

Sam A. Kondra, Vonda
E. E. Gordon, Aberdeen
Nick Chrusch, Vonda
Ike Theissen, Aberdeen
Bert Thompson, Aberdeen

Sub. 9—

Percy Schmeiser, Bruno
Joe Buchinski, Cudworth
John F. Warick, Dana
Verdun Dutertre, Wakaw
Julius Frank, Prud'homme
Geo. Nickorick, Wakaw

Sub. 10—

Harry Ford, Humboldt
Joe Fleischhacker, Pilger
Frank Bolster, Fulda
Alf Butterley, Humboldt
A. Siba, Jr., Middle Lake

Sub. 11—

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Anton Doyscher, Humboldt
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Frank Tinevez, St. Brieux

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Joe Specken, Saskatoon
Alex Prociuk, Saskatoon

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C. Peterson, Kuroki
R. H. Clark, Kelvington
J. Egge, Nut Mountain

Sub. 2—

H. King, Quill Lake
J. Hanson, Wadena
V. Lindstrom, Wadena
D. Metcalfe, Quill Lake
Paul Prosko, Watson

Sub. 3—

C. M. Thompson, Naicam
R. K. Davis, Naicam
Earl Ponath, Naicam
A. Loyns, LacVert
W. Charles, Pleasantdale

Sub. 4—

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L. B. Pugh, Rose Valley
H. R. Cowell, Rose Valley
Frank Reed, Rose Valley

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Frank McNamee, Kelvington
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Sub. 6—

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M. Young, Somme
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M. Hobman, Porcupine Plain

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Real Marleau, Tisdale
Gerald Wilson, Tisdale

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A. Groat, Melfort
R. Northcott, Melfort
C. H. Whiting, Pleasant Valley
A. Connor, Pathlow
C. Hopkins, Melfort

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E. D. Oakenfold, Weldon

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T. McCloy, Meskanaw

Sub. 2—

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Gus Baudais, Domremy
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*J. H. Wesson, Regina
*Among official delegates.

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—Yorkton Enterprise
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E. Scharf, Saskatoon
—Co-op Consumer
T. R. Melville-Ness, Saskatoon
—Western Producer
Keith Dryden, Saskatoon
—Western Producer
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SUBMISSION

by the

WESTERN FARM DELEGATION

to the

PRIME MINISTER

and

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

in support of

DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS ON WHEAT, OATS & BARLEY

THIS submission is made today on behalf of 302,200 petition signers in Western Canada. It represents a request for your earnest consideration of the serious problem faced by Western grain producers as a result of the increase that has taken place in farm costs and the decline in wheat, oats and barley prices.

The accompanying petition reads as follows:

To the Prime Minister,
and Members of the Government,
OTTAWA.

PETITION

WHEREAS the cost index of commodities and services used by Western farmers has risen by 51 per cent in the past ten years; and

WHEREAS during the ten-year period grain prices have declined to the extent that the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat, oats and barley is at the lowest point it has reached since the depression of the late thirties, (for example, in the ten-year period wheat prices have declined 21 per cent); and

WHEREAS the imbalance between costs and prices, usually referred to as the cost-price squeeze, has brought about the most serious economic conditions faced by Western grain farmers since the depression prevailing at the outbreak of World War II;

We, the undersigned, hereby petition the Government of Canada to take immediate action to meet the emergency arising from the cost-price squeeze by providing payments on wheat, oats and barley delivered to The Canadian Wheat Board during the crop years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58, such deficiency payments to be made on a specific volume of each farmer's deliveries to maintain the income of the family farm at a parity level.

The petition has been signed by 302,200 people who have contributed \$220,499.08 to finance the costs of this delegation. This is an average of 74 cents per signer. People from almost every walk in life represented on the prairies have supported this delegation. This support has been offered in the realization that the welfare of the farm industry, and particularly that of the grain farmers, is lagging far behind the level of prosperity enjoyed by other sections of the Canadian economy. It is an attempt by farmers to achieve a level of income that will more nearly provide them with a fair share of the national income. Those other than farmers who have supported this petition have done so in the realization that on the prairies "farm prosperity is everybody's business" and without a prosperous farm community, the urban community will inevitably suffer.

The proceeds of the campaign fund have been used to defray the expenses of delegates attending this meeting today. The funds collected in each community were used to send local representatives, and the selection was made by the people in the community. The funds have come from personal contributions. All canvassing was done voluntarily, mainly by farm people, who donated their time and paid their own expenses.

The delegation has come here in the spirit of good will in an effort to impress upon the Government, and the citizens of Canada, the seriousness of the economic problems faced by Western grain growers. It is the intention of this delegation to present the facts of the situation clearly before your Government, and ask for your full and sympathetic consideration. The delegation seeks to exercise one of the fundamental rights of a democratic society—the right to lay a petition at the foot of the throne. We wish it clearly understood that the delegation is not intended as a threat. It should not be

interpreted as an attempt to gain favours through coercion, but simply as an instrument through which to present the case of the grain producers.

Growth of the Canadian Economy

The history of Canada's development as a nation reflects the careful attention devoted over the years to policies designed to weld the different areas of the country together. Political considerations were used to surmount geographical obstacles which threatened in the period of early development the exclusion of the prairie and Pacific regions from the remainder of Canada.

The construction of railway services and the entire promotion of settlement in Western Canada was a part of the general national policy. Protective tariffs were established as part of this pattern. Manufacturing and distribution industries grew up in the central provinces. These enterprises required an outlet for the goods they produced. This led to wide promotional effort and assistance for the development of Western Canada, and settlers were given concessions in moving to this new region. In return for these favours the settlers of the West guaranteed the factories of Eastern Canada a market, and the railways a thriving transportation business.

In the 100-year period of this transition, the interdependence and co-operation fostered between the four widely-divergent regions have resulted in the development of Canada from an obscure British colony to a powerful nation with world-wide influence. Each region has contributed its part, without which the development could not have been complete. Under this influence, the early dependence of the nation has shifted gradually but inevitably away from agriculture and toward the industrial and financial enterprises. While agriculture continues to expand and improve its productive capacity, this has been overshadowed in recent years by the rapid advance of industrial development.

Responsibility of the Farm Industry

Despite the changing pattern of Canada's economy, the interdependence between regions has remained. In fact, interdependence between agriculture and industry has increased in recent years as a result of mechanization. In pioneer days farm implements were simple and inexpensive, and much of the food and clothing requirements of the farm family were grown on the farm. Today, changing conditions and mechanization have made the farmer the biggest customer of the consumer industries. Consequently, while the number of people engaged in farming is decreasing, their influence in terms of purchasing power is growing steadily more important to industry and the distribution services.

At the same time the responsibility of the farmer to provide food for the nation, and other more densely populated countries, has also become more important. This responsibility takes on added significance, too, when the commitments of Canada in providing food for less fortunate areas of the world are considered. Farm organizations have long believed that Canada has a growing responsibility to assist other countries, particularly those within the Commonwealth, through the systematic provision of food and fiber to promote their welfare. We commend the Government for the action taken to date to increase the quantities of wheat being exported from Canada under assistance programs. Expansion of this type of international assistance program can be a useful policy in many ways to the future of Canada. Domestically, it can provide for full employment of agricultural resources which, in turn, may well solve many of the economic problems of the industry. Agricultural income still determines the welfare of many business and manufacturing industries, and the im-

portance of a prosperous agriculture in maintaining national prosperity should not be underestimated. Internationally, it can provide a stronger weapon than H-bombs in the struggle between democracy and communism. The recognition you have given in public statements, Mr. Prime Minister, to the importance of foodstuffs in the development of international harmony and understanding, has been gratifying to the people of Western Canada.

There is a growing belief that economic considerations rather than military ones will become the major weapon of the future in the struggle between democracy and communism. In this struggle, agricultural production may count for more than armaments, although in either case the farm productive capacity of the nation is a vital part of national defense.

For the above reasons interdependence between the divergent regions of Canada remains as important today as it was at the time of Confederation.

It is in the interests of all Canada to ensure that the farm industry maintains a standard of prosperity equivalent to that of other groups. It is in the common interest that agriculture should receive its fair share of the national income.

The Nature of the Western Farm Income Problem

The farm problem of Western Canada is mainly the result of low purchasing power, caused by the decline in net farm income. The problem became severe in 1954, and it has become continually more serious since that time. The blame for this situation has been widely, but incorrectly, attributed to restricted grain marketings as a result of a decline in export sales. This suggestion is completely without foundation as will be shown later.

The following table shows the total realized net farm income in constant dollars for Saskatchewan and the Prairie Provinces over the past 20-year period. Realized net farm income represents the money farm people in the three provinces received for living expenses, payment of income taxes, investment or savings.

It should be stressed that this net figure includes the amount remaining, after farm expenses are paid, to take care of the salary of the farm operator and his unpaid family help, and provide a return on capital invested in the farm enterprise. This is set out in constant dollars and represents purchasing power in terms of goods and services used by farmers.

This table shows the sharp decline that has occurred in "real" farm income in the four years, 1954 to 1957, as compar-

ed with the earlier post-war period. In each of the four years, prairie farm income was lower than in any other year since 1942, with the exception of 1950.

TOTAL REALIZED NET FARM INCOME — SASKATCHEWAN AND PRAIRIE PROVINCES

(In constant dallars, basis 1935-39 index of farm costs)

Year	Saskatchewan (— Million Dollars —)	Prairie Provinces
1938	9.6	109.1
1939	65.9	149.4
1940	59.3	140.0
1941	78.3	197.1
1942	88.7	227.3
1943	168.2	357.3
1944	298.8	572.4
1945	202.1	416.4
1946	183.0	384.4
1947	184.6	400.8
1948	210.9	472.7
1949	205.1	445.3
1950	105.2	252.2
1951	187.0	392.6
1952	197.5	393.5
1953	217.1	394.6
1954	103.8	224.7
1955	86.0	193.1
1956	144.7	282.0
1957	118.9	252.7

Number of occupied farms—

1956 Census	103,391	232,016
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Source: Calculated from statistics published in Handbook of Agricultural Statistics, Part II, Farm Income, and Price Index Number of Commodities and Services used by farmers.

This drop in "real" income is at the root of the farm problem. And, if during the past three or four years, income from livestock had not shown a strong upward trend, the total income picture would have been somewhat worse. Fortunately, during this period the livestock market has been unusually strong, and has accommodated the desperate efforts of grain farmers to diversify their production through switching to livestock. This is now resulting in a steady increase in Western production and marketings of livestock, and income from this source has been useful in cushioning the shock of declining grain income.

The extent of this situation is shown in the following table, which compares the Western Canada cash income and marketings of wheat, oats and barley with that of cattle, calves and hogs during the past ten years.

CASH INCOME AND VOLUME OF MARKETINGS — WESTERN CANADA 1949 - 1958

WHEAT, OATS & BARLEY				CATTLE, CALVES & HOGS		
Year	Cash Income	Volume	Marketed (*) Annual Change in %	Cash Income	Markatings	Annual Change in %
	Dollars (Million)	Bushels (Million)	%	Dollars (Million)	Number (Thousands)	%
1949	780.0	450.2		285.1	2,846.9	
1950	494.9	453.3	+ 1	305.1	2,756.4	— 3
1951	827.2	553.9	+22	339.1	2,532.2	— 8
1952	948.4	719.2	+30	265.6	3,256.3	+28
1953	966.0	820.7	+14	270.6	3,398.8	+ 4
1954	551.7	588.7	—35	281.6	3,600.4	+ 6
1955	457.6	502.6	—15	276.8	4,027.2	+12
1956	678.0	539.1	+ 7	284.2	4,046.7	—
1957	575.2	552.5	+ 3	331.7	4,146.6	+ 2
1958	579.2 E	533.2	— 3	434.0 E	5,050.0 E	+21

(*) Crop Years 1948-49 to 1957-58.

E — Estimated.

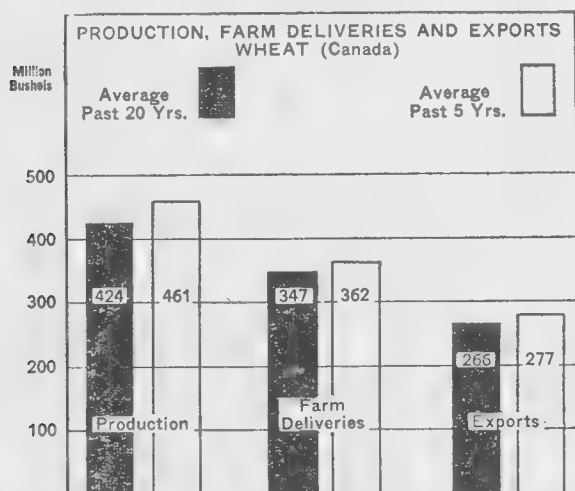
This table shows the upward trend of livestock income that has saved many prairie farmers from bankruptcy in the past few years.

The table also suggests, however, that this trend cannot continue very much longer. It will be noted that while income from livestock in 1958 was about 50 per cent higher than in 1949, this was only achieved through an increase of nearly 80 per cent in marketings. In other words, the improvement in livestock income has come from increased marketings and not from increased prices. Present indications are for a further substantial increase in hog production this year, and continuation of the upward trend in cattle output. Hog prices have dropped to the floor, and there are indications that the unusually strong market for cattle may not last more than another year. Farmers—in the midst of a livestock expansion program—are now being advised to cut down their production. They are being told to “tailor their production” to meet the known commercial market. This means that the low prices for wheat, oats and barley which have forced farmers to switch from grain to livestock production in order to maintain their income may soon result indirectly in a surplus of meat products that will wreck the livestock market as well.

Wheat Sales Maintained but Prices Down

There appears to be a widespread belief that the decline in prairie farm income has been due to a reduced volume of export wheat sales. For several years this was coupled with the belief that the liquidation of huge surplus stocks of wheat held on prairie farms would solve the problem. During the current crop year it is anticipated that virtually all of the remaining farm stocks will be marketed, but the income problem is growing more serious rather than showing improvement. Actually, marketings of grain in recent years have been reasonably satisfactory in comparison with the record of the past. The following chart presents the story:

WHEAT (Canada)



Source: Prepared from statistics issued by the Board of Grain Commissioners.

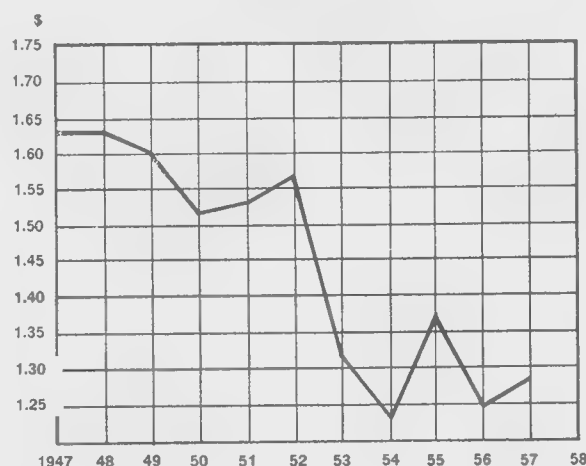
It will be noted from the chart that during the past five years Western farmers have been marketing as much or more wheat on the average as in the past 20-year period. Similarly, the Canadian Wheat Board has been exporting as much or more wheat during this period as was exported on the average during the 20-year period.

Prairie grain growers are motivated in their production practices by: (1) The amount the market can absorb, and (2) the number of alternatives available. In other words, the expansion of export markets for grain will always be important.

For if the market can be increased, the farmer will find a means of producing to meet the need. And if, through substantially increased output the unit-cost-of-production can be lowered, then to this extent a price decline can be tolerated. But a price decline with no consequent large-scale increase in marketings means automatically that income is reduced, and this is the experience of the grain farmer today.

The following chart shows what has happened to the farm price of wheat in Western Canada during the period from 1947 to 1957.

FARM PRICE OF WHEAT — WESTERN CANADA 1947 - 1957

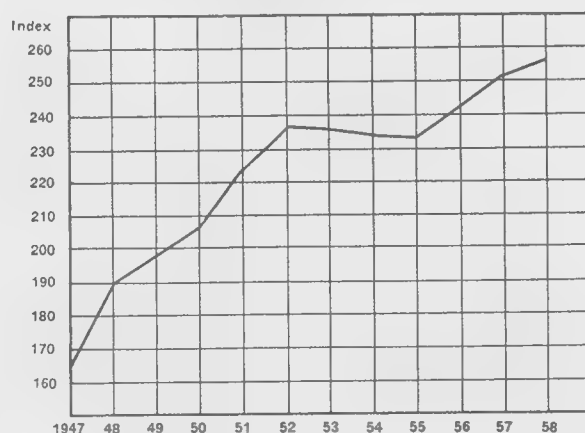


Source: Prepared from statistics issued in D.B.S.; Production Value & Stocks of Principal Field Crops.

Note: 1957 price estimated by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

In 1947 the farm price of wheat was at the reasonably satisfactory level of \$1.63 per bushel. A decline occurred in the next few years, but this did not become too serious until 1953 when it dropped to \$1.32. By the end of the marketing period for the 1956 crop, the price was down to \$1.24. We hope that some slight improvement will result when the final accounting of the 1957-58 Wheat Board pool

COST OF GOODS AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS — WESTERN CANADA (excluding living costs) 1947 - 1958



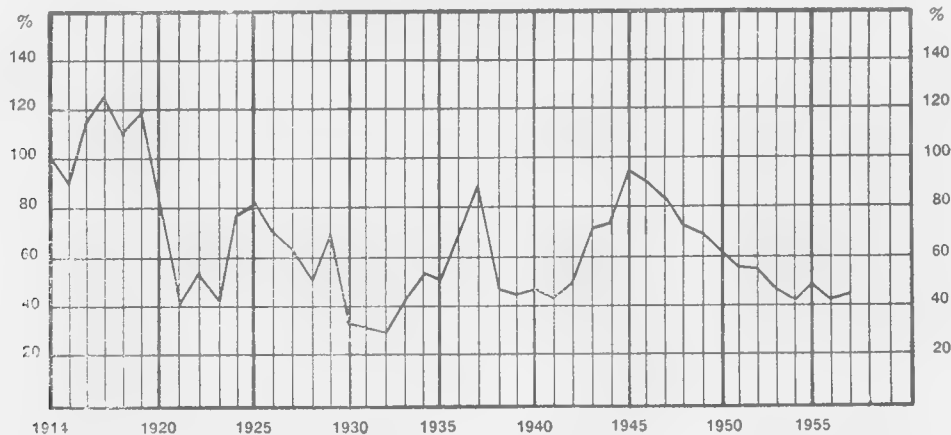
Source: Prepared from statistics issued in D.B.S., Price Index Numbers of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers.

is completed. Estimated on an optimistic basis, we hope that the final payment may total 10 cents per bushel, bringing the final price to \$1.28 per bushel. This would still leave the 1957 price 21 per cent below the price level of 1947.

During the same period that this decline in prices has occurred, farm costs have risen at a steady rate. The index of costs of goods and services used by farmers shows a rise in the period from 1947 to 1957 of 51.2 per cent. A further rise of 3.4% above the 1947 level has occurred in 1958.

These two factors of falling wheat prices and rising farm costs have driven down the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat to near the lowest level in history. This is illustrated in the following chart, which shows the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat from 1914 to 1957.

**PURCHASING POWER OF A BUSHEL OF WHEAT
1914 - 1957**



Sources: Prepared from statistics issued in D.B.S.; Prices & Price Indexes, Annual Report, Supervisor of Statistics, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.

The post-war rise in costs indicated by the above charts has affected almost everyone in Canada. Most individuals and industries have been able to make the necessary adjustments to rising costs by passing them along to someone else through increases in the prices of goods they produce or sell, or through increases in wages and salaries. This is not true of the primary producer. The grain farmer is a primary producer, and his prices are established by the level of the export market. Consequently, he is unable to adjust to domestic cost increases which he has no power to control. The rising spiral of costs has been the most important single factor responsible for the decline in net farm income.

Farm organizations have long held the opinion that the Government of Canada must accept responsibility for policies which have permitted a serious spiralling of farm costs, and until action has been taken to arrest this spiral, measures should be provided to maintain farm prices in compensation.

Grain Policies

We have indicated in the previous sections that the grain farming industry has become a seriously depressed part of the Canadian economy. Something must be done immediately to relieve this condition if the family grain farm industry is to survive. If allowed to continue, the depression will spread to other segments of the economy. This has already happened in Western Canada.

This Government has recognized the danger that exists, but in our opinion the steps taken to correct the situation are inadequate. The proposals regarding a long-range corrective program are appreciated, and their importance should not be

minimized. It is possible that these policies, the details of which are not presently known, may at some time permit agriculture to achieve the necessary level of income for its survival. When that time arrives, there will be no need for income support payments from the Treasury. But until these policies become effective, one of three alternatives, or a combination of these, must be undertaken to assist the grain producer:

1. Expansion of exports markets. This would be helpful only to the extent that farmers are able to increase their production. For a great many farmers this is not likely to happen. It would, however, help some others.

2. Reduction of farm costs through lower prices of

goods and services used by farmers. This would entail not only government price controls, but an actual "rolling back" of these prices.

3. Transfer payments from the Treasury to subsidize market grain prices through deficiency payments.

Although Government action with respect to point number (1) has been helpful in maintaining the present level of exports, there appears to be little evidence that a large-scale increase in exports could be brought about in the face of United States determination to maintain its status as a major exporter, and the protectionist policies of the importing nations. There has been no evidence either that price control measures as suggested in point number (2) will be made effective in the foreseeable future. Consequently, the assistance to grain producers, suggested in point number (3) by way of direct income subsidization must be considered.

Deficiency Payments

Farm organizations believe that income assistance to agriculture can be most successfully rendered in many instances by the use of deficiency payments. The Government has already adopted this approach with several commodities. Provision is made for this type of assistance under the Agricultural Stabilization Act, except for Western grain. One of its major advantages is that the normal operations of marketing need not be disturbed, and the problem of price adjustments between products, which sometimes creates "consumer-resistance" difficulties under high price support measures, are avoided. Another advantage is that deferred deficiency payments are useful in "marketing board" or "pooling" types of

marketing where the actual price for the market year is sometimes not known until some time after the market year ends.

Deficiency payments also give little or no encouragement in building up surpluses or the accumulation of large unsaleable stocks which require costly storage facilities. In their application to grains, of course, the danger of increasing surpluses is minimized because marketing quotas rather than prices are the major influence in determining the production objectives of producers.

Deficiency Payments on Grain

The purpose of this delegation is to make a specific request for deficiency payments on wheat, oats and barley during the three crop years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58. The following table sets out the details of the proposal:

DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

Farm Price Comparisons for Western Canada between the Average Price for 8 Post-War Crop Years 1945-46 to 1952-53 and the three Recent Crop Years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58

1955-56			1956-57			1957-58		
Wheat	8 Yr. Ave.	\$1.59	8 Yr. Ave.	\$1.59	8 Yr. Ave.	\$1.59		
	1955-56	1.37		1956-57	1.24		1957-58	1.28 Est.
	Def. Pay't.	.22		Def. Pay't.	.35		Def. Pay't.	.31 Est.
Oats	8 Yr. Ave.	.65	8 Yr. Ave.	.65	8 Yr. Ave.	.65		
	1955-56	.61		1956-57	.50		1957-58	.53 Est.
	Def. Pay't.	.04		Def. Pay't.	.15		Def. Pay't.	.12 Est.
Barley	8 Yr. Ave.	1.00	8 Yr. Ave.	1.00	8 Yr. Ave.	1.00		
	1955-56	.87		1956-57	.76		1957-58	.77 Est.
	Def. Pay't.	.13		Def. Pay't.	.24		Def. Pay't.	.23 Est.

Source: The above table is based on statistics published in D.B.S. Revised Estimates of Production, Value & Stocks of Principal Field Crops. The 1957-58 figures are *estimated for illustration purposes only*. These figures may change, depending upon the levels of the final payments still to be made by The Canadian Wheat Board. The estimates allowed for these payments are: Wheat — 10 cents per bushel, Oats — 7 cents per bushel, Barley — 7 cents per bushel.

It will be noted that the request is for deficiency payments on grain marketed during the three crop years at the following levels:

	1955-56 (\$ per Bus.)	1956-57 (\$ per Bus.)	1957-58 (Est) (\$ per Bus.)
Wheat	.22	.35	.31
Oats	.04	.15	.12
Barley	.13	.24	.23

We suggest that a ceiling be applied at \$1,500 per individual farmer each year.

Farmers of Western Canada greatly regret that the deficiency payments policy was not accepted when placed before the Government on a previous occasion. We feel that several aspects of the situation have not received adequate consideration.

The formula used in arriving at the level of deficiency payments is a simple one, based on the principle of adjusting present-day prices of wheat, oats and barley upward so as to restore the prices of these grains to the average level of the eight-year period from 1945-46 to 1952-53. This period was selected because it represents the longest period of relatively stable wheat prices in Canadian history. It was, too, one of the few periods during which the farm industry enjoyed a level of prosperity in reasonable relationship with other groups.

It should be stressed that no adjustment has been made to compensate for increased costs since the eight-year period, and as these costs have risen about 25 per cent above the average of that period, it means that the adjusted grain prices

will not provide the farmer with anything like the relative prosperity he enjoyed between 1945-46 and 1952-53. In view of the additional increase in costs not being taken into account, this deficiency payments proposal must be considered a most reasonable request.

It should be stressed that the deficiency payments plan is directed toward assisting the medium to small-size farm. For example, based on a wheat farm for simplicity, at the 35-cent payment rate for 1956-57, the \$1,500 ceiling will permit a farmer to collect a deficiency payment only on the first 4,285 bushels of his deliveries. No payment will be made on deliveries in excess of this amount. This provision limits the application of the deficiency payments proposal so that the relatively small and medium-size farms will obtain maximum payments, and a proportionately higher amount than larger farmers, based on acreage.

This delegation requests your Government to attack the basic problem as it exists. The basic problem is low farm income caused by low grain prices. The only way to correct this is through the grain pricing system — by returning grain prices to an adequate level.

Other problems associated with small uneconomic units — crop failures, under-capitalization, etc., — cannot be solved by deficiency payments alone, and it should be recognized that different measures must be sought to correct these ills.

The deficiency payments policy will not encourage a further increase in surpluses. The delivery quota system for grain in Western Canada works very well, and producers have come to realize about the amount of grain they can expect to deliver in a single year. They recognize that any grain they produce in excess of the marketable quantity must be kept in storage on the farm. Consequently, they have little incentive to produce additional grain that they cannot sell.

Subsidies to Order Interests

It must be recognized that a subsidy to grain producers will not constitute a special concession to a particular group. Subsidies — direct or indirect — are incorporated into the very fabric of Canada's national development. The protective tariff is a form of subsidy to the business and manufacturing industries of this country. The increase in the prices of goods bought by Canadians as a result of the tariff policy has been estimated by the Royal Commission on Canada's

Economic Prospects at more than \$1,000,000,000 for the year 1956. This is the price Canadians have been paying through the years as protection for domestic manufacturing industries.

In addition to its restrictive influence, the tariff has for many years been an important source of revenue to the Federal Treasury. In 1956 revenue from Canadian customs import duties amounted to \$545,000,000. Legislation has been in effect in the United States since 1955, providing that an amount equal to 30% of the gross receipts of the custom duties of that country is to be devoted to the benefit of agriculture. This is a direct recognition of the adverse effect of the tariff policy on the agricultural industry. Similar legislation in Canada could be useful in solving some of the problems of agriculture here.

In addition to its cost in actual dollars, the Canadian tariff policy works particular hardship on export industries through restriction of two-way trade. Tariff limitations restricting the import into Canada of consumer goods from dollar-short foreign countries has in many cases resulted in those countries curtailing their purchases of Canadian goods. This has been particularly serious for the grain industry which, over the years, has ranked in importance with the forest product industry in leading Canada's export business.

Wheat Subsidies in Other Countries

Wheat subsidies in other countries have been responsible in part for the price decline experienced by the Canadian grain producer. Almost every wheat importing country pays domestic producers excessively high prices to grow wheat—often uneconomically—while at the same time imports of lower-priced Canadian wheat are subject to certain measures of control. Thus the Canadian wheat producer finds himself in the ridiculous position of growing the best quality product in the world and at the same time receiving the world's lowest price. Our prairie farm price for wheat in 1956-57 (the last completed crop year) averaged \$1.24 per bushel. This is in sharp contrast with the following table, which shows wheat price levels to domestic producers in a number of importing countries, most of which are currently good customers for Canadian wheat.

PRODUCER PRICES FOR WHEAT IN SELECTED COUNTRIES 1958 - 59

	\$ per bus.		\$ per bus.
Switzerland	4.15	Belgium	2.48
Finland	3.78	Ireland	2.13
Norway	3.31	South Africa	2.18
Italy	2.93	United Kingdom	2.03
Germany	2.78	Netherlands	2.01
Japan	2.67		

Source: Selected from a list contained in "Wheat, A Commodity Policy Review" by Frank Shefrin—Agriculture Abroad, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, February, 1959.

Most importing countries, in addition to providing high price supports for domestic producers, control the flow of imported wheat through import licenses, exchange controls, import quotas, and milling quotas which require a specified volume of domestic grain to be used in the grist. All these actions involving artificial support prices and import restrictions are efforts by foreign governments to protect their domestic industries. The Canadian wheat producer feels that he has a right to expect assistance from his own government in meeting the difficult competition resulting from this situation.

The agricultural surplus disposal policy of United States, however, creates the most serious problem facing the Canadian wheat producer. In the ten-year period immediately prior to

the second World War, United States wheat exports averaged 57 million bushels annually. This compares with an average of 375 million bushels during the ten-year period ended July, 1958. United States has become the world's leading wheat exporter, and this has been achieved through surplus disposal policies involving huge export subsidies and give-away programs. During the crop year 1956-57, when United States exports rose to a record 539 million bushels, the effective average export wheat price was more than \$1.00 per bushel lower than the price paid to the United States producer. Although this program costs the Treasury huge sums of money annually, it has become clearly evident that United States has no intention of relinquishing her newly-acquired role of the world's leading wheat exporter. The Canadian farmer cannot continue to meet this kind of competition indefinitely unless he receives some measure of assistance from his own government. In our opinion, this assistance should take the form of deficiency payments.

Other Measures which can be Used to Limit the Need for Deficiency Payments

There are a number of other policies which farm organizations believe should be adopted. If our Government is prepared to implement these policies, it will automatically reduce the level of deficiency payments.

(1) The first of these is the two-price system for wheat. Under this proposal, wheat sold for human consumption on the domestic market would be priced in relation to the level of the domestic economy. For example, a one-cent increase in the price of bread consumed by Canadians would result in an increase of more than 50 cents per bushel in the more than 50 million bushels of wheat used for Canadian human consumption annually. This would add more than \$25,000,000 to the annual Wheat Board pool, and spread over the total wheat deliveries, would amount to about seven cents per bushel. The level of deficiency payments required could be reduced by that amount. The cost of the policy to the consumer would be negligible, yet it would achieve the eminently fair principle of pricing wheat consumed in Canada at a level in relationship to other prices in the domestic economy.

(2) We would recommend also that consideration be given to an adjustment payment from the Treasury to compensate for the exchange premium of Canadian currency over that of the United States. Recently this premium has been ranging from 2½ to 3 per cent, and consequently, has caused a reduction of about 4 to 5 cents per bushel in the price of Canadian wheat. At times in the past, the reduction in price has amounted to as much as 10 cents per bushel. This exchange premium, although helpful to some segments of the Canadian economy and to the consumer in general, has been costly to the Canadian wheat producer.

(3) Farm organizations consider that the cost of carrying grain in commercial storage facilities should be a public responsibility, and not a charge against the farm industry. The facilities in which grain is stored are situated throughout the nation, and the availability of a variety of grain stocks in widely separated locations provides a service to the consumer as well as the producer. The grain producer, operating under quota regulations, is required to provide costly farm storage facilities for all grain held on the farm. Under these circumstances, it is no more than fair that the public should bear the cost of grain that has been delivered to public elevator facilities. This has been

recognized in part by the Federal Government in the storage rebates now paid to The Canadian Wheat Board on surplus wheat. We recommend that this policy be extended to include all of the grain in commercial storage facilities.

(4) It has been noted previously that the Canadian farmer is under a severe handicap in the export marketing of wheat as a result of the U.S. subsidized exports policy. The farmer is penalized also with respect to the export of Canadian flour. Because of additional U.S. subsidies offered to flour mills to give them a competitive advantage in the export market, it became necessary about two years ago for the Canadian government to take action to protect the interests of Canadian millers. Canadian mills were unable to compete and were losing business. Consequently, The Canadian Wheat Board was authorized to sell wheat to Canadian mills at less than market price in order that they might compete with U.S. millers for markets outside United States, United Kingdom and Europe. This subsidy has been adjusted on a day-to-day basis, and until recently, amounted to approximately 10 cents per bushel. Last month the price adjustment was increased to approximately 16 cents per bushel to compensate for the adjustment of 5% cents in wheat prices, resulting from the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. At the same time, the policy was extended to subsidize Canadian flour shipments to United Kingdom and European countries at the rate of 5% cents per bushel. The extension of the policy to United Kingdom and European shipments means that a part of the saving in freight charges resulting from the opening of the Seaway will automatically be lost to Canadian producers unless the Canadian government accepts responsibility for this direct subsidy to the flour mills. Wheat producers recognize the need for the establishment of this policy to hold export flour markets, but they feel it is the responsibility of the Canadian Treasury and not of the wheat producer to meet the competition of the U.S. Government.

Conclusions

As representatives of Western farm people, this delegation believes that prompt remedial action is necessary to prevent an economic collapse in prairie agriculture.

Low prices and delivery quota restrictions have forced wheat acreage down to the lowest levels in recent history. Acreage of this major crop—by far the most important single product contributing to the income of the Western prairies—has declined by almost 25 per cent in the past 10 years.

Farmers have done everything possible to switch to other types of production. This trend has already gone too far

and, as a result, the livestock industry is now threatened with surpluses.

The request this delegation makes today will not in itself provide grain producers with a level of income in parity with other non-farm groups. But it will permit the efficient farm operator an opportunity to meet his farm costs.

Other measures will be necessary to permit the agricultural industry to make the adjustments demanded by technological change. The question of mechanization and its high costs, the small farm problem, vertical integration,—all these things require special attention. In some cases they will require many years for solution. In the meantime the individual farmer, who may not receive assistance from these long-term measures for many years, must have financial help.

The deficiency payments proposal would be a temporary policy. We anticipate that it would continue only until the necessary adjustments are made to otherwise improve the farm situation. For example, if through government controls, the farmer's costs were related more closely to his prices, the need for deficiency payments would automatically disappear.

If the hopes of Western farmers for international co-operation in the distribution of food are realized, and if this action results in the allocation of funds to provide for enlarged exports of wheat from Canada in future, the need for deficiency payments may be reduced.

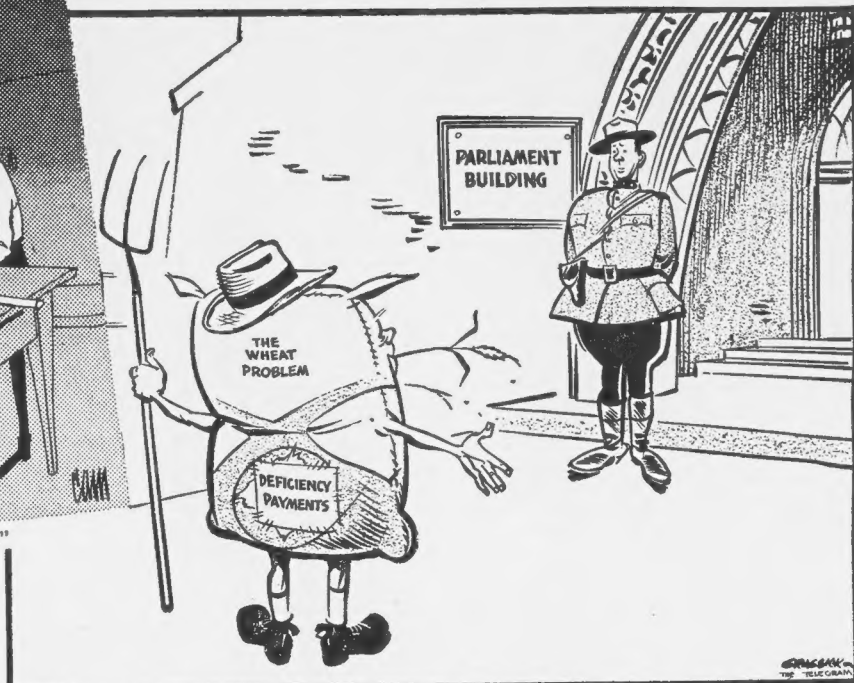
Although Western farmers have never yet produced more wheat than the market would absorb in a relatively short period of years, it might be possible to expand this level of production if it were given encouragement through prospects of larger sales and larger delivery quotas. To the extent that such increases in marketings resulted in improved income, the funds needed for deficiency payments could be reduced.

On the other hand, if through international negotiation to achieve real freedom of trade, importing countries can be persuaded to discontinue uneconomic wheat production and permit the job to be done in areas like Western Canada where high quality wheat can be produced more efficiently than anywhere else in the world, this too will limit the need for deficiency payments.

Canada has long maintained tariff policies designed to protect manufacturers. Other distributing and retailing groups have methods designed to pass higher costs along in the form of price increases. Labour has the right to negotiate, and to strike if necessary, in order to maintain parity of income with other groups.

Grain farmers have none of these protective policies. They believe that all of the problems of agriculture cannot be solved through the pricing system, but unless some of the income protection available to other groups is provided to grain farmers as well, the industry as it is now constituted will be unable to survive.

Respectfully submitted,
THE WESTERN FARM DELEGATION



"JUST SAY IT'S AN OLD NEIGHBOR OF HIS!"



"It's a nice show, but it's not what they led us to expect."

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix



"Whew! I thought they'd never leave..."

As Cartoonists saw the Delegation.

**WESTERN FARM
DELEGATION**

REPRESENTING MORE THAN
300,000 SIGNERS
March 10, 1959